

Claims

We claim:

- 1 1. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
3 receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade
4 object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;
5 and
6 executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising instructing the instruction processing program
2 to execute the instruction set.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more
2 prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising reporting that the instruction set has been
2 executed.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is suitable for transmission by
2 electronic mail.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises binary instructions.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises a script.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction processing program is adapted to compile
2 and execute the script.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object requires the instruction processing
2 program to be executed by the computer system.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is not independently executable.
- 1 12. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
3 creating an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object
4 including an instruction set adapted for use by the script processor; and
5 transmitting the upgrade object to the computer system; and
6 instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing
7 program.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the upgrade object presents the end user with
2 instructions to perform a task.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the upgrade object prompts the end user to indicate that
2 the task has been performed.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the
2 instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

1 16. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, comprising:

2 (I) installing a script processing program on the computer system;

3 (ii) receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the
4 upgrade object including a script adapted for use by the script processing and a
5 prerequisite field containing one or more prerequisites; and

6 (iii) instructing the computer system to process the installation object, whereby the
7 upgrade object causes the computer system to:

8 determine if the one or more prerequisites have been met; and

9 instructing the script processor to execute the script with the script
10 processor; and

11 reporting that the script has been executed.

1 17. A computer program product, comprising:

2 (a) a upgrade object configured to upgrade a software program on a computer
3 system having an instruction processing program, the upgrade object including an
4 instruction set capable of causing the instruction processing program to perform one or
5 more upgrade tasks; and

6 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the upgrade object.

1 18. A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

3 receiving an installation object associated with the computer program, the installation
4 object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;
5 and
6 executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the
2 instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more
2 prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.

1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising reporting that the instruction set has been
2 executed.

1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object comprises a script suitable for
2 transmission by electronic mail.

1 23. A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
3 creating an installation object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object
4 including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program; and
5 transmitting the installation object to the computer program; and
6 instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing
7 program.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the installation object presents the end user with
2 instructions to perform a task.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the installation object prompts the end user to indicate
2 that the task has been performed.